

of medicine 'Dialantin' an essential drug for the treatment of epilepsy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to make the medicine available?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Some reports of localised shortages of 'Dialantin' for mulations are received during the last few months.

(b) M/s. Parke Davis, the manufacturers of Dialantin formulations, have informed that such shortages have arisen due to some technical problems caused in the production of formulations.

(c) The manufacturers were advised immediately to rush stocks to the reported areas of shortages. It is understood that manufacturers are arranging to rush supplies to the affected areas and have also overcome the technical problems disturbing the production of the formulations. The availability position is, therefore, likely to improve shortly.

Production of Soda Ash by Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation, Haldia Complex

526. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the reasons for the failure of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation, Haldia Complex to produce Soda Ash?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): While the Soda Ash plant at the Haldia Complex of

Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation has been completed, it could not go into production, since the other plants of this complex with which this plant is integrated are not yet commissioned.

Strike by RMS employees

527. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Railway Mail Service (RMS) and Mail Motor Service went on a day's strike on the 6th June this year all over the country to press their demands;

(b) if so, what are the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some 80 employees belonging to Reserve Trained Pool were suspended in West Bengal for taking part in the above-said strike; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the postal employees all over the State had been on a strike on this issue; if so, the details and the steps taken to settle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A section of the RMS and MMS employees went on a strike on 6-6-1985.

(b) The following demands were put forth by the All India RMS and MMS Employees Union Class III and the Bhartiya RMS Employees Union Class III—

(1) Restoration of all sorting sections/sorting mail offices/sets and

dropping of proposed abolition of night sets in Tamil Nadu.

(2) Removal of ban on recruitment.

(3) Immediate absorption of RTPs/Casual Labourers/EDAs/Part-time workers and approved mailmen for Class III posts.

(4) Cancellation of DG's orders withdrawing checkers from HROs/SROs, abolition of SROs and Mail Offices and restoration of status quo ante.

(5) No increase in workload other than those prescribed in Be-weer-Tarapada, Marathe Time Tests and Madan Kishore Formula will be imposed.

(6) No introduction of bulk entry system of accountable articles.

(7) No mechanisation, no computerisation and no introduction of sorting machines in RMS.

(8) Providing Mail Peons/Mail Guards with MMS drivers.

(9) Standard for sanction of staff for P&T Mail Motor Service.

(10) No curtailment of MMS schedules and restoration of schedules already abolished.

(11) Vacation of all forms of victimisation. The demands were discussed with the Unions Conciliation Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Act were also held by the Dy. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi. However, the Government did not find the demands acceptable.

(c) No, Sir, Reserve Trained Pool Candidates are not regular employees

and rules relating to suspension under te CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 do not apply to them.

There were 25 Reserve Trained Pool Candidates who did not report for duty on the day of the strike. On screening applications received from them, the Postmaster General, Calcutta has since allowed 80 candidates out of them to join. Three candidates were on long absence since May, 1985. The representations received from the remaining two candidates are under consideration of the Postmaster General, Calcutta.

(d) No, Sir. However, work of Calcutta G.P.O. was interrupted on 6-6-1985. A few postal employees in Calcutta City and the districts ceased work on 11-6-1985 also. The situation returned to normalcy thereafter.

Production of Rifampicin

528. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH
MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rifampicin, a drug for the treatment of TB and leprosy is not manufactured in the country and is imported to meet the demand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain companies which were given letters of intent for the manufacture of Rifampicin some years back have failed to start production of the drug;

(c) if so, what is the quantity (with value) of the drug imported annually since 1981-82 as against the demand; and

(d) what are the reasons for failure of the companies to whom letters of intent were granted to start production of the drug and what action Government have taken in this regard?